Schools of Archives

†4109. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places where school of archives are situated;

(b) whether these schools are to be extended throughout the country in view of the importance of their utility; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) School of Archival Studies, National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The National Archives of India has no plan to start the study of Archival Studies at any other place in the country. However, the University Grants Commission has contemplated to introduce Archival Studies as an optional course at Post-Graduate level.

'Men of Arts' Pension

4110. SHRIN.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons from Kerala to whom the Central pension for Men of Arts' have been granted;

(b) whether the legal heirs of the late pensioners are eligible for the pension;

(c) whether any legal heirs of the later pensioners from Kerala applied for the grant of pension;

(d) whether they have been sanctioned the pension; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances administered by the Department of Culture, financial assistance was extended to 49 artists from Kerala during the year, 2000-2001.

(b) The spouse and dependents of the deceased beneficiary are also eligible for assistance under the Scheme provided they are eligible on income

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

criteria. Spouse will be eligible for assistance for life and dependants till marriage or employment or till they attain the age of 21 years.

(c) to (e) The Department of Culture presently has four cases under its consideration wherein widows of the late beneficiaries applied for assistance. The view of the State Government is being ascertained on each case.

Recommendations of World gravel Tourism Council

4111. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a recent study of the World Travel Tourism Council, a private sector forum, reported in the Times of India dated 5th August, 2001 highlighting *inter-alia* the staggering inadequacies in developing tourism in India and the* need for "dramatic shift visualized by the industry in the tourism sector";

(b) if so, the details of major observations/recommendations of the Council and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the details of phased region-wise plans for giving boost to the tourism industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by Worlds Travel Tourism Council in their India Initiative Status Paper released August 2001 include simplification of visa procedures, augmentation of airline seat availability, privatization of the existing airports, opening of more international airports, upgradation of basic tourism facilities, improvement of India's image, evolving uniform taxation system conducive to tourism, leveraging private sector funds and skills to maintain and market India's heritage, marketing a single ticket for all national heritage sites, etc. Government is aware of all these issues in relation to development and promotion of tourism in the Country. The Government have been making efforts to sort out different issues and problems through consultation and dialogue in different fora with the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and with the State Governments.

(c) Various plans to give boost to the tourism industry in the country include identification of 21 circuits and 12 destinations for development through the joint efforts of Central and State Governments and the private sector. The Department of Tourism has also constituted Special Task Forces for the